

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment responds to the office action dated April 13, 2006.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-34, 36-56, and 58-86 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Christel, "Adjustable Filmstrips and Skims as Abstractions for a Digital Video Library" IEEE Advances in Digital Libraries Conference, May 1999 (hereinafter Christel) and Ahmad et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,880,171 (hereinafter Ahmad). The applicant respectfully argues that the Examiner's rejection is improper. First, contrary to the Examiner's arguments at p. 4 lines 3-7 of the Office Action, Ahmad does not disclose "visual means for indicating a relative location of a first type of semantic event *in* a video and displaying the relative location for a second type of semantic event *in* the video using a second indication different from the first visual indication." Second, one of ordinary skill in the art would not make the cited combination because the use of Ahmad's marking method in Christel would provide no material benefit.

Christel discloses a system for presenting video skims in which a user may enter a specific query to which certain frames of a video are "matched." The video skim is constructed by (1) identifying key frames in the video that match the query, and (2) based upon those matching frames, constructing a summarization that includes each of the matching frames in one or more video segments. The number of, and size of each video segment included in the summary depends on a user-selected compression rate. The system of Christel also includes a video scroll bar that shows the match locations and the selected portions of the video in the summary. The graphical display of FIGS. 5 and 6 includes two "timeline" bars, one comprised of the matching frames and the other comprised of the video segments built around those matching frames. As the summary is viewed, a time cursor sweeps through each of the respective bars, showing the viewer relatively how much of the summary has been viewed and how much of the video has been included in the summary.

As noted by the Examiner, though Christel discloses two visually distinguishable timeline bars each respectively displaying query-matched key frames and video segments centered around the key frames, neither the key frames nor the video segments displayed in the respective timelines are indicative of the semantic content of the summary. Thus, Christel does not disclose the claimed limitation of “displaying said relative location for a first type of *semantic event in* said video using a first visual indication and displaying said relative location for second type of semantic event in said video using a second visual indication different from said first visual indication.” (emphasis added). This, or respective similar limitations, are found in each of independent claims 1, 29, and 56. Instead, the Examiner argues that this limitation is disclosed by Ahmad, and that the two references are properly combinable.

The term “semantic event” relates to the *meaning* of an event, and more specifically, the claim limitation of a “type of semantic event in said video” relates to a meaning of a particular type of event portrayed *in* the video. For example, if the video is of a basketball game, a type of semantic event *in* the video might include slam dunks, fast breaks, fouls, and injuries. If the video is an action movie, types of semantic events in the video might include car chases, explosions, and gunfights. Even a cursory reading of Ahmad shows that it fails to disclose the limitation of “displaying said relative location for a first type of semantic event in said video using a first visual indication and displaying said relative location for second type of semantic event in said video using a second visual indication different from said first visual indication.”

Ahmad discloses a browser for audiovisual content where a user can view summary information related to available content. In a specific embodiment, noted by the Examiner, Ahmad discloses a window showing, as an example, “news programs” available for viewing where any currently viewed news program is shaded in one color while news programs that have already been viewed are shaded in another color. *See* Ahmad at col. 16 lines 54-65. Presumably, were the window showing “action movies” or “documentaries” the window could be similarly marked to shade, for example, any currently viewed documentary one color and previously viewed documentaries another color. Thus, the different colored shadings, as taught by Ahmad, are not indicative of any semantic content *in* the video; rather, the differing visual indications are merely indicative of the *statistical property* of whether that viewer is either currently watching the program (shading in one color), has previously watched the program (shading in another

color), or neither (no shading). The applicant further notes that the post-facto marking of content as being either watched or not watched cannot indicate anything meaningful about the events in a video created long before the user had the opportunity to watch the program. Therefore, neither Ahmad nor the primary reference Christel discloses the claimed limitation of “displaying said relative location for a first type of *semantic event in* said video using a first visual indication and displaying said relative location for second type of semantic event in said video using a second visual indication different from said first visual indication.”

In any event, Christel and Ahmad are not properly combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner. First, each of Christel’s video skims are custom-created in response to a specific user inquiry by selecting key frames of a specific video and expanding segments around the key-frames by an amount dependent upon a user-selected compression ratio. Neither reference discloses a means by which particular key-frames of Christel, or frames in segments surrounding key frames of Christel’s video skims, may be tagged as having been watched by a particular user. Such an embodiment would be particularly troublesome given that Christel’s system is intended for multiple users in a library setting, hence marking individual frames in a video segment as having been watched/unwatched by any particular user would be pointless. Furthermore, even to the extent that a user had previously entered an identical query, or a similar inquiry at an earlier time such that specific segments in the currently compiled video skim were viewed earlier, the current presentation as a whole is intend to be watched sequentially. Thus, marking any segments in a compiled skim that may have been previously watched by a specific user would provide no material benefit, given that the current skim was specifically created to match a particular inquiry by the user. For each of the foregoing reasons, the Examiner’s rejection of claims 1-7, 9-34, 36-56, and 58-86 was improper.

A Declaratiion of M. Ibrahim Sezan is enclosed.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-7, 9-34, 36-56, and 58-86.



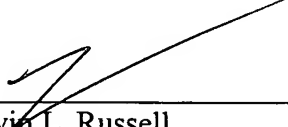
This Amendment is being submitted with a Petition for Extension of Time, together with the requisite fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-1550.

Respectfully submitted,

CHERNOFF, VILHAUER, McCLUNG & STENZEL

Dated: August 15, 2006

By


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 15, 2006.

Dated: August 15, 2006


Kevin L. Russell